



Fact Sheet:

Prevention Measurements



Measuring alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) primary prevention involves two distinctly different approaches. One describes prevention activity as ADP does with the Prevention Activities Data System (PADS). This describes what services were delivered to which persons in what settings.

The second measures outcomes, comparing the results to the desired outcome. This data is used to assess the degree of success and to make improvements. Outcome data for broad prevention efforts is complex because:

- *there is no unique identification of recipients who may be tracked, as in treatment (client);*
- *efforts occur over time and broad settings;*
- *multiple efforts occur simultaneously, masking the effects of a specific venture;*
- *efforts are expected to affect behaviors years after the event; and,*
- *ATOD issues are affected by many dynamic economic, social, legal, and political changes.*

ADP PADS Background

ADP has a legal responsibility to collect and report accurate prevention data for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) and the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) grants.

To measure the results of prevention, ADP worked on a state Prevention Data Initiative. Later ADP participated in the federal Minimum Data Set test. Following this, in

order to capture all the information ADP required, ADP created PADS.

With almost 400 primary prevention providers, ADP determined that California would implement PADS to uniformly meet SAPT and SDFSC grant requirements using a single, statewide reporting system.

ADP implemented PADS in January 1998. Data is collected on the state fiscal year, from July through June.

PADS is aligned with the six primary prevention strategies established by the Center for Substance Prevention and Treatment (CSAP).

PADS Information for Providers

Annually, a revised PADS User's Guide is sent to all counties and approximately 400 providers; it is also on the ADP web site. State and county PADS reports with dynamic (current) data are viewable at:

<http://www.adp.ca.gov>

➤ Select: **Alcohol/Drug Programs** (see index on left side)

➤ Select: **Prevention Activities Data System (PADS)**

Counties may use these reports to assist with need assessments and to set local priorities.

State and county PADS reports describe:

- how many providers use each of the six CSAP prevention strategies;
- the types of services delivered, frequency of delivery, and number of persons served by each;

- where the services occurred; and,
- demographics of the populations served.

Convergence of Prevention Measurement

Under the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA), federal agencies are establishing good business practices that examine the results of public investment in all areas, including primary prevention.

For the federal SDFSC grant, the Department of Education established four Principles of Effectiveness to assure sound prevention options are used.

For the federal SAPT grant, research-based prevention concepts are promoted.

These two federal approaches appear as five specific requirements for primary prevention funds in the Negotiated Net Amount (NNA) contract between ADP and the 58 California counties. The counties in turn require that their respective 400+ primary prevention providers meet these five criteria.

The ADP NNA prevention requirements are:

- ① Assess: Identify and assess risks and needs based on data relevant to specific communities. Express needs as a clearly stated purpose/desired outcome; define all terms used to assure common understanding.
- ② Prioritize: Establish prevention priorities using the assessment data, local input, and cultural aspects relevant to the participants and recipients.

③ Measurable Actions: Establish actions to attain the desired outcome (who, what, when, where, how). Specify how to measure the process actions and sustain the results.

④ Proven Practices: Select prevention actions based on theories or practices that research/evidence indicate will prevent or reduce the identified AOD-related problems.

⑤ Improvements: Assess results relative to the goal and objectives. Use measurement data to continuously refine, strengthen, and sustain AOD prevention.

Technical Assistance for Measurements

California is within the Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies region. WestCAPT offers information about research-based prevention that can be located at <http://www.unr.edu/westcap>.

The California Prevention Collaborative (CPC) is an association supported by 200 prevention organizations. One of its committees (Plank #4) works to advance research-based prevention. CPC committees are open to anyone in ATOD prevention. CPC information is available from Monica Novoa, (916) 327-8981 at ADP.

AOD profiles of all 58 counties are available at http://www.adp.ca.gov/adp_prog.asp

➤ Select: **Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk-July 2001**

➤ Select: Desired county from an alphabetical listing (use Acrobat Reader)

Finally, ADP offers Technical Assistance for Prevention Outcomes & Measurements (TA-POM) to assist county AOD offices and community-based prevention organizations to identify, design, and implement research-based programs. Contact Fried Wittman, (510) 540-4717 at UC Berkeley.